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Composition, arrangement, use of type, freedom from typographical errors, all are very satisfactory to the critical eye. The devotion of the author, shown by publishing the volume at his personal expense, adds to the feeling of satisfaction: an earnest enthusiastic moss student is behind the work, a man who enjoys the consciousness of doing helpful things for fellow workers.

The book lists 29 species of *Sphagnum*, and some 350 species and varieties of true mosses, under 107 genera. The classification adopted is modern, with a reasonable regard for good sense and convenience. The most impressive feature of the volume, at least to the writer of this brief review, is the wealth of pigmy mosses represented: there are found in the area treated two species of *Andreaea*, two of *Archidium*, two of *Bruchia*, five of *Pleuroidium*, two of *Seligeria*, one *Astomum*, one *Pottia*, two of *Nanomitrium*, six of *Ephemerum*, and two of *Acaulon*.

Such a list of minute mosses, in so limited a floral area, is possible only as a result of painstaking, long-continued field study. The author gives credit for the majority of these minute mosses largely to the late C. F. Austin, whose collecting grounds near Closter, N. J., are included in the area treated, modestly adding the results of his own field study for the past fifteen years.

JOHN M. HOLZINGER.

WINONA, MINNESOTA.

THE NEW YORK MEETING OF THE SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY

EDWARD B. CHAMBERLAIN, *Secretary*

According to the announcement sent to all members early in December, the Sullivant Moss Society held its eleventh public meeting at Barnard College, Columbia University, on December 29th, 1916, in connection with the Convocation Week of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The registered attendance was between forty and fifty. Mention should be made of the noteworthy attendance from Massachusetts, and from among the Philadelphia members, whose coöperation made the work of preparing the meeting much easier. Since a formal programme has already been sent to the members, and as the most of the papers presented will appear in *THE BRYOLOGIST*, no attempt is made here to present formal abstracts.

Members began arriving soon after nine o'clock, and from then until the opening session at eleven there was an acquaintanceship meeting that was among the most pleasant features of the day. To our great regret a recent illness prevented the attendance of our President, Mrs. Britton, save in the afternoon, and stopped all active participation in the meeting upon her part. We greatly appreciate her energy and interest in coming so far especially for the one session.

The exhibits were arranged around two sides of the room before the windows, giving an abundance of light for all microscopic purposes, as well as for examining the individual specimens under favorable conditions. Dr. Grout showed slides and preparations of *Camptothecium Woldenii*, recently described by him. This moss, as the label accompanying it announced, came "from the Kansan Drift,

which Dr. Osborn says is 400,000 years old.” In spite of this great age, our new friend seemed remarkably well preserved. Miss Alice Kendall brought with her a series of exquisite glycerine mounts of complete moss-plants, showing in full detail the gross and microscopic structure of the various species, as well as permitting microscopic examination. It is certainly a pity that so few of our members could have the opportunity of examining these mounts at first hand. In addition to this, Miss Kendall had a large amount of material from North Greenland, collected in “chunks,” as it grew, and dried without pressure, giving a vivid idea of the state in which the plants naturally exist. These latter specimens she most generously distributed at the close of the meeting to all who desired them. Miss Daisy Levy, besides many microscopic slides, had a number of Petri dishes containing growing material of moss-protonema, which had been germinated upon agar. These showed various stages from the spore to the minute buds of the future gametophytes, and served to illustrate her paper later in the morning.

To render more clear the details of his paper upon the lichens of Whatcome County, Washington, Dr. Herre had forwarded various official maps, showing the general relationships of the topography and altitudes, as well as surface conditions. From Mr. Plitt and the Lichen herbarium there were two complete fascicles of the Lichens now in course of distribution from Dr. Hasse's duplicates, and additional material illustrating the original state in which the specimens were received from Dr. Hasse. It was a source of regret to all that an accident at the last moment prevented Mr. Plitt from telling us in person about the collection. A large number of photo-micrographs of mosses or hepatics were shown by Miss Helen Greenwood, and these were eagerly examined by the members, many of whom remembered those shown at Philadelphia two years before. These, and the slides later shown by Dr. Grout, indicate what a wide range of usefulness is open to the camera in rendering accessible and intelligible both the gross and the minute features of mosses and hepatics. In both these cases we regret that the present situation in the paper trade does not permit us to offer illustrations of the photographs to members.

Mrs. Frank Lowe brought to the meeting, at no small trouble, several boxes of “naturally dried mosses.” These consisted of turfs of the various species cut out to fit small pasteboard boxes, and then dried without pressure, so as to preserve the natural appearance of the plant as usually seen growing. To the Secretary, this was one of the most interesting exhibits, and, in connection with the material shown by Mrs. Dunham, seemed to open new opportunity for the local museum. The average exhibition specimen of a moss is a sad corpse. Save to an expert, it presents little of interest and is of slight help in determining specimens. These specimens of Mrs. Lowe's actually bring into the museum the characteristic facies of the out-of-door plant, and make amateur study possible without technical description, in the same manner that a well selected series of local birds does. Mrs. Dunham's specimens were of single moss plants, or groups of plants, specially mounted between sheets of celluloid which in turn were fastened to cardboard frames. In this form material can be passed from hand

to hand without injury, and be submitted to close examination. For talks to beginners, we can think of nothing more useful than such a series. Miss Haynes's exhibit was a checklist of North American hepatics, in card-catalogue form, which has formed the basis of the various checklists which have been issued by her and Dr. Evans. A new and revised edition of this is promised for the coming spring.

The formal session for the reading of papers was opened shortly after eleven o'clock. In the absence of the President, Mr. Chamberlain was appointed President, *pro tem.*, and Mr. Kaiser, Secretary for the meeting. The first paper, by Dr. Evans, discussed various species of hepatics that have recently been found in the United States, each being illustrated by lantern slides. Dr. Herre's paper gave a resume of the physical and floral conditions that characterize Whatcome County, Washington, which occupies what may be called "the northern northwest corner of the United States." The paper concluded with a tentative list of 124 species and varieties from the region. The morning session closed with Miss Levy's description of the successful experiments she had made in germinating the spores of various species of mosses upon nutrient agar, as illustrated by the material on exhibition. The meeting then adjourned for luncheon.

At the afternoon session, Mrs. Dunham told of the methods used by her in talking about the common mosses to audiences of school children in connection with museum talks. She spoke especially of the interest taken by the Camp-fire Girls and the Boy Scouts, and by still younger children as well, and of the readiness with which they learn to distinguish many of the commoner species. Dr. M. A. Howe then spoke of the interesting species of the *Ricciaceae* that have recently been discovered in the Southern United States, illustrating his remarks by lantern slides and photographs of living material from the green-houses of the New York Botanical Garden. Dr. Riddle gave a historical summary of the genus *Parmeliopsis*, Nyl., illustrating the talk by sketches, and outlining the difficulty that often exists in determining the precise application of specific and generic names. Miss Lorenz outlined a trip taken to Mr. Katahdin, Maine, during the past summer, and the various collections of hepatics made during that time. This article will be published in the next issue of *THE BRYOLOGIST*. It is unnecessary to describe, also, Mrs. Smith's historical account of the Society, from the start as a "corner" in the "*Fern Bulletin*" to its present condition. We have all read it. But the Secretary is sure that Mrs. Smith will accept our expression of pleasure that she could meet with us, and our appreciation of all that she has done herself to make the Society possible.

The meeting closed with an exhibition of over fifty lantern slides of mosses, photographed by Dr. Grout, who accompanied the slides with a running comment, and prefaced this by a brief outline of the methods used in obtaining the photographs. This was a most interesting feature of the meeting, and served to bring to all the real atmosphere of outdoors. Adjournment followed at about four o'clock. The Society is indebted to the courtesy of the Botanical Department of Columbia University for the arrangements for the meeting place and for many

conveniences that were placed at the disposal of the local members. For this the Secretary has already made suitable acknowledgment.

18 W. 89TH ST., NEW YORK CITY.

SULLIVAN MOSS SOCIETY NOTES

We clip the following from the Chicago daily papers, and hope later to publish a more extended notice:

"Mr. Ellsworth Jerome Hill died at his home in Chicago, January 22d, last. Mr. Hill was known to thousands of Chicagoans who had been his pupils at the Englewood High School, where he taught physics and natural history. He was ordained a Presbyterian minister fifty-one years ago, but gave up preaching after several years to become a teacher. He was known as an authority on the plant life of the Lake Michigan region. Mr. Hill was born in 1833 in LeRoy, N. Y. He leaves a widow, daughter, and two sons." E. B. C.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Cooked Lichens for Food.—In an article in the Ottawa Naturalist,¹ Tom Wilson writes from Vancouver, British Columbia, concerning a number of wild plants used as food by the Indians of that province. Most of our readers will probably not see the article, hence we quote: "I come now to one of the strangest looking materials for food purposes, namely, the lichens of the dry belt, which hang like old men's beards from all the coniferous trees, *Alectoria jubata* L. The process of preparation was something like this: A large pit was dug in the ground and the inside made as smooth as possible. A fire was then built inside, and the pit thoroughly heated. The ashes were then thrown out and the pit received a lining of damp grass, on which was laid a layer of "moss" (lichen). Another layer of damp grass, then more lichen, and so on till the pit was full. It was then topped off by more grass, and hot stones were laid around and over the whole mass, and it was kept as hot as possible for a day or more, when it was then supposed to be cooked. If not well prepared it was apt to mildew, but I have eaten it a month after cooking and it was quite good." O. E. J.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Offerings—*To Members only.* Return postage should accompany the request:

Mr. Edward B. Chamberlain, 18 West 89th Street, New York City.—*Rhacomitrium patens* (B. & S.) Huebn., *c. fr.* Switzerland, collected by Mr. P. G. M. Rhodes.

Mr. A. J. Beals, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City.—*Fontinalis gigantea* Sulliv. Sterile, collected by Mr. Beal at Hoboken, N. J., early December, 1916.

¹ Wilson, Tom. The Use of Wild Plants as Food by Indians. Ottawa Naturalist 30: 17-21. May, 1916.